

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 RSC-01 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065048

MARK FOR AMBASSADOR WITMAN - HOLD FOR ARRIVAL

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ASMARA NAIROI MOGADISCIO  
USCINCEUR SECDEF MOSCOW FROM ADDIS ABABA 06 PAR 73 REPEATED TO  
YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABAB 4068

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFDR, ET, SO, PBOR , MOPS

SUBJ: ETHIO- SOMALI CLASH; FOMIN DEMARCHE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4059

1. DR MINASSIE RECEIVED ME AND POL COUNSELOR 6:00 PM APRIL 6.  
MINSTATE YODIT AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MENGISTE ALSO  
PRESENT.
2. DR MENASSIE SAID HE HAD ASKED ME TO COME BECAUSE SOMALI  
FORCES HAD PENETRATED 11 KILOMETERS INTO ETHIOPIA AT A PLACE  
CALLED BANGOL ( ABOUT 25 KILOMETERS EAST OF DOLLO) ON  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 REPEAT APRIL 4. SOMALI FORCES REMAINED  
IN OCCUPATION OF BANGOL AND WERE BEING SUPPLIED AT NIGHT  
THROUGH ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. INTRUDING FORCE " NOT VERY LARGE"  
BUT FONMIN UNABLE TO BE MORE PRECISE.
3. IEG " VERY CONCERNED" BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. EMPEROR HAD CALLED  
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IN SOMALI CHARGE AND INFORMED HIM HE ( HAILE SELASSIE) TAKING " VERY SERIOUS" VIEW OF SITUATION WHICH " COULD LEAD TO CONSEQUENCES". EMPEROR HAD ASKED SOMALI AUTHORITIES WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES AT ONCE FROM ETHIOPIAN SOIL.

4. IEG HAD ALSO DISPATCHED NOTE OF PROTEST TO SOMALI ( COPY OF WHICH HE HANDED ME-- CONTENTS IN SEPTEL). HIM HAD MOREOVER, CABLE PRESIDENT SIAD STATING FACT OF INCURSION; ASKING INTRUDING FORCES BE WITHDRAWN; AND SUGGESTING PENETRATION COULD BE WORK OF LOCAL COMMANDERS RATHER THAN DIRECTION OF GSDR. MENASSIE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS LARGELY DEVICE GIVING SOMALIA AN " OUT". IEG HAS FEELING INCURSION MIGHT WELL BE CALCULATED MORE INTENDED TO EMBARRASS OR HUMILIATE IEG OR DESIGNED DELIBERATELY TO RAISE TENSION, DR MENASSIE SAID.

5. AS SOVIET MILITARY DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA HAVE ENGENDERED SITUATION WHICH NOW CONFRONTS ETHIOPIA, FONMIN CONTINUED, HE HAD CALLED IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO HAND HIM COPY OF IEG PROTEST NOTE TO GSDR SO THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE INFORMED OF ETHIOPIA'S CONCERN. FONMIN SAID HE HAS POINTED OUT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR THAT SOMALIAS BECOMING MORE " AGGRESSIVE" AS THEY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLIES.

6. DR MENASSIE CONCLUDED WITH REMINDER THIS NOT FIRST SUCH INCIDENT. TWO POSITIONS IN ETHIOPIA OCCUPIED BY SOMALI FORCES IN PAST AND NOT YET RELINQUISHED BY THEM DESPITE FACT THAT IEG HAS REPEATEDLY REQUESTED THEY BE WITHDRAWN. ONE OF THESE IS ( PHONETIC) COLGIT. IT IS " IN NORTH". INCURSION THERE VERY SMALL BUT IEG TAKES SERIOUS VIEW OF IT BECAUSE BORDER WELL MARKED. SECOND IS IN SOUTH AT PLACE CALLED ( PHONETIC) BOHOLGAR SALE ( WE PRESUME PLACE IS BOHOL GORASLE AT 4-13 N 42-33 E). IEG HAD BECOME ON GRADUALLY AWARE SOMALI PRESENCE THERE BUT INITIAL INTRUSION AT THIS POINT AGGRAVATED BY SUBSEQUENT NEW INCURSION TO PLACE CALLED KURA. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRESENT CLIMATE ETHIO- SOMALI RELATIONS IEG OF VIEW THAT LATEST PENETRATION CANNOT BE IGNORED. IF WE IGNORE IT, NEXT INCURSION COULD OCCUR ANYWHERE AND BE MUCH WORSE. THAT IS WHY, MENASSIE SAID, IEG WISHES INFORM USG OF ITS CONCERN.

7. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BE TRANSMITTED FORWTH TO WASHINGTON. I NOTED REPORTS BEGINNING  
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CIRCULATE IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY ALLEGING CLASH THIS MORNING

INVOLVING FIRE FIGHT FOLLOWED BY WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES  
( REFTEL). DR MENASSIE SAID HE UNINFORMED ANY SUCH CLASHES.  
THERE HAD BEEN SOME FIRING APRIL 4 BUT IT HAD OCCURRED ON  
SOMALI SIDE OF BORDER AND HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTED AT ETHIOPIAN  
FORCES. COMMANDERS ON BOTH SIDES HAD GOTTEN TOGETHER AND PUT  
STOP TO IT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. THERE HAD BEEN NO CASUALTIES  
ON THAT OCCASION SO FAR AS DR MENASSIE AWARE.

COMMENT: WE HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR DISCREPANCY BETWEEN  
CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE AND REFTEL AT THIS TIME. IN ANY  
EVENT BALL IN IEG COURT AND, UNLESS SOMALI WITHDRAW, ETHIOPIAN  
GOVERNMENT MAY WELL FEEL CALLED UPON TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO  
DEAL WITH SITUATION.  
ADAIR UNQUOTE ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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